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11-13; and of Missouri at Hannibal, Oct. 18-19; delivering at each meeting an address on the subject, "What Americans Read."

Mr. Chalmers Hadley, librarian of the Denver public library, and ex-secretary of the A. L. A., was the representative of the American library association at the meeting of the Pacific northwest library association, at Victoria, B. C., Sept. 4-6, giving an address on "The Library and the Community."

Secretary Utley attended the Minnesota meeting, at Lake Minnetonka, Sept. 20-22, the Nebraska meeting at Omaha, Oct. 18-19, and the North Dakota state meeting at Jamestown, Oct. 20-21, giving at each conference an address on "Reaching the People." He also gave an address at the Indiana library trustees' association, at Indianapolis, Nov. 8th, on "The Legal and Moral Requirements of a Library Trustee."

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian of the St. Louis public library, and ex-president of the A. L. A., will be the principal out-of-state speaker at the Alabama library association conference, at Tuscaloosa, and at the State University, November 21, 22 and 23. Dr. Bostwick will give two addresses; the first on "The Companionship of Books"; the subject of the second has not yet been announced.

Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites, of the Wisconsin state historical society, and also an ex-president of the A. L. A., officially represented the association at the inauguration of Dr. George E. Vincent, as president of the University of Minnesota, October 18th.

CHICAGO MID-WINTER MEETINGS

The usual mid-winter library meetings will be held again this year at Chicago, January 2-6, 1912. Headquarters will be at the recently opened Hotel Sherman, corner of Randolph and Clark streets, opposite the new county court house, and four blocks west of the Chicago public library. Rates for single rooms with bath are from \$2 per day up; rates for double rooms with bath (two in a room) \$3 per day up. Every room has a bath. Requests for reservations

should be made directly to the Hotel Sherman. The directors of the Chicago public library have generously placed at our disposal the directors' room, on the fifth floor of the library building, adjoining the A. L. A. headquarters. The Hotel Sherman will also provide free meeting room, and committee rooms. Hours for meetings, unless otherwise stated, will be 9:30 a. m. and 2:30 p. m.

The League of library commissions will meet Tuesday, January 2, both morning and afternoon, also on Wednesday morning, January 3, and on Thursday morning, January 4. The sessions will be in charge of the president, Miss Cornelia Marvin, secretary of the Oregon library commission. Meetings will be held in the directors' room of the public library.

The college and university librarians of the Middle West will hold their third annual meeting in Chicago, on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, January 5-6, 1912, in the directors' room of the Chicago public library. The sessions will continue to be of the same informal round-table character as heretofore. The various subjects to be discussed will be assigned to individuals who will generally not read papers, but will simply make such a statement as will most effectively start a free discussion. The arrangements for these meetings are in charge of a committee consisting of Mr. P. L. Windsor, Mr. J. C. M. Hanson, and Mr. A. S. Root. The topics to be discussed will, for the most part, be selected from the following list:

Charging systems appropriate for college libraries.

Co-operation between librarians.

Open shelves.

Relations between the faculty and the library.

Specialization in college libraries.

Standing of the college library in the institution.

Printed catalog cards.

Reserved books.

Salaries of assistants.

Pensions for college librarians.

Circulation of books to undergraduates.

Interlibrary loans.

Report on the co-operative forwarding agent from European book centers.

Report on the co-operative purchasing representative in Europe.

The essentials of a university library annual report.

A meeting of instructors in regular library schools will be held on Wednesday morning, January 3, 1912, in Chicago, in a room to be announced later. The discussion will be informal in character and will be chosen chiefly from the following topics:

Certain pedagogical problems connected with our library instruction.

Efficiency of administration in library schools.

Elements in the cost of maintaining library schools.

Non-essentials in our library school courses.

Particular phases of these questions will be assigned to individuals who will present the conditions in their own and other library schools, after which the discussion will begin. The various instructors will lunch together on Wednesday noon. Arrangements for this meeting are in charge of Mr. P. L. Windsor.

The Council of the American library association will meet on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning, January 4-5. A list of topics proposed for discussion will be sent personally to each member of the Council.

The Executive Board of the A. L. A. will meet Wednesday evening, January 3, at 8 o'clock at A. L. A. headquarters.

The A. L. A. publishing board will meet Friday afternoon, January 5, at A. L. A. headquarters.

The Chicago library club will entertain visiting librarians on Thursday evening, January 4. Further announcements will be made later.

COMPARATIVE LIBRARY STATISTICS

In the A. L. A. Bulletin for May the secretary outlined a tentative plan for printing comparative library statistics, appending a skeleton table suggesting those topics on which data was most likely to be of value. Suggestions and criticisms were invited and quite a number have been received. With the help of these a revised table was prepared and sent to fifty libraries of widely varying size and in widely separated parts of the country. Returns have been received from thirty-two and the statistics they sent have been incorporated into the table which appears on another page of this number of the Bulletin. If the members of the A. L. A. find these statistics useful, another installment from 30 or 40 other libraries may be printed in some future number of the Bulletin, perhaps in May, 1912. We invite librarians to send to the Executive office the data called for in the table and, as space permits, we will endeavor to print this.

These statistics are published particularly in the hope that they may be useful in helping the librarian show trustees, budget committees or other city officials, wherein their library falls below the average in certain particulars, and that they may thus become an effective tool in helping to secure a larger appropriation or a better balanced budget. Comparative statistics are never entirely satisfactory, for local conditions, which the tables do not show, often need to be known for their proper interpretation, and sometimes the tables will record the statistics of an exceptional year, either good or bad, which gives the library an advantage or a disadvantage which it does not deserve. But we hope, nevertheless, that the study of these figures will prove interesting and that some benefit may be derived. We let the figures speak for themselves and make no attempt to draw deductions or observations therefrom.